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No. 4

PROMINENT NEW PLANTS.

AMONG the many plants which are prominently offered by seedsmen and plant dealers this season a few are here noticed. Some of them are quite new, and those of them which are not so, but have already been before the public for a short time, are specially worthy of more attention now, as having been proved and found valuable. The illustration on this page represents an annual flowering plant, which is sent out under the name of *Rudbeckia bicolor superba*. The plant is a vigorous grower, becoming about two feet in height, much branched and bushy, and bearing an abundance of flowers on long stems which are, therefore, quite available for cutting. The flowers are nearly three inches in diameter and very showy. The center or disk is a rich brown, while the rays are yellow with long marks at the base of a velvety brown appearance. The plant is easily raised from seed, and will prove a desirable addition to the general collection of plants raised for cut flowers, for the flowers are unique and showy.



RUDBECKIA BICOLOR SUPERBA.

A plant which has already been before the public for a year or two and met with favor, is *Physalis Francheti*. Those who know the old so-called strawberry tomato may have a very good idea of the appearance of this plant and its fruit which resemble it, except that the fruit of the new sort is very much larger and showier. The seeds should be started early and the plants set out in the open ground as soon as frosts are past. The ripe fruits or berries, of a bright orange red color, are very handsome, making the plant very attractive. If grown in a pot it makes a showy table or apartment plant while in its prime.

The new day lily, *Hemerocallis aurantiaca major*, proves to be a very desirable acquisition to the perennial border. The large orange colored flowers, seven or eight inches across, are remarkably handsome and are freely produced for a considerable length of time. It is quite hardy and thrifty.

The new strain of large flowered cannas, represented by the varieties *Austria*, *Italia* and *Burbank*, are becoming deservedly popular. The flowers are very large, and when opened out measure seven inches across. *Austria* and *Burbank* have canary yellow flowers, those of *Italia* are a brilliant red with a wide band of yellow about the edges.

Among the dwarf Crozy cannas two very desirable new varieties are *Hortense Barbereau* and *Souvenir d'Antoine Crozy*. The first bears immense trusses of large bright red flowers, and the latter is after the style of, but even an improvement upon, the beautiful and popular *Queen Charlotte* variety, the large flower being an intense scarlet crimson with a broad golden border.

Aster Daybreak was noticed and illustrated in our pages last month, and it is a variety of great merit.

Another new and handsome aster is *Princess Rosalind*. The general form of the flower is like that of the snow-ball aster, color a bright rose, very beautiful. Among dahlias, in the cactus section, which are particularly noticeable are *Nymphæa*, a strong growing plant, bearing large full flowers of perfect form, of a pink color resembling the pink water lily, from which it has been named; *Clifford W. Bruton*, a

strong grower, producing its flowers abundantly, which are very large and full, and of a rich, pure yellow color, and are borne on long stems, serving well for cutting purposes; *Henry Patrick*, a pure white variety, with large flowers borne on long stems, the plant a strong grower and bearing a profusion of blooms; *William Agnew*, a remarkably large and finely formed flower of a bright red, petals long, the outer ones gracefully twisted, the plant a strong grower and abundant bloomer.

Besides the above there is *Constancy*, a reddish orange tipped with white, and *Zulu*, very dark maroon, almost black; *Grand Duke Alexis of Russia*, white tipped with delicate lilac; *Lady Montague*, deep rich crimson, and a number of others of different colors.

The lists of show, Pompon and dwarf dahlias are very rich, and the lovers of this elegant plant have a splendid assortment to choose from.

Of new varieties of geraniums, that ever popular flower, may be specially noticed the following:

Madame Bruant; plant vigorous and free blooming; flowers single borne in large trusses, white veined with carmine, with the edge bordered with a bright solferino color; very distinct and handsome.

J. Sallier; a vigorous, free blooming plant, bearing single

flowers in large trusses; petals of a rose color shaded with lavender and edged with a band of carmine.

Fleur Poitevine; plant dwarf but vigorous; flowers large, single, a bright rosy

and desirable flowering plants of all classes and we now turn to the products of the vegetable garden and notice a few meritorious varieties.

The Jones Round Pod Wax Bean is a

to the market gardener, and it will supply from the private garden the family table with peas of choicest quality from the first gathering, and as early as can now be had with the smooth peas.

In regard to potatoes a distinct advance is claimed in the new variety, White Beauty, which on ripening is classed as medium early. Its claims for consideration are based on its excellent quality, fine form, above medium and tending to large size, and very great productiveness. The plant is a strong grower and has never been affected with blight. The combination in one variety of so many good characters must recommend it to the careful attention of potato growers.

In small fruits two varieties of the Black Raspberry make their appearance which unquestionably have valid claims for the consideration of fruit-growers. One of these is the Black Diamond. This is said to be much superior in quality to the varieties now cultivated, and a remarkably heavy bearer.

The Cumberland Raspberry is another black cap, and said to be the largest sized berry of the kind ever produced; the berries are as large as those of the Wilson Blackberry. The plant is unusually hardy, very vigorous and of great productiveness.

These notes indicate only a portion of the new and desirable offerings which are made the present season to the gardening public.



HEDGE OF RAMBLER ROSES.

carmine, marbled and striped with white, very distinct and handsome.

Madame Jaulin is considered one of the finest double varieties that has been produced in a long time. The truss is of great size, composed of large flowers which are a delicate pink at the center and bordered with pure white. Excellent both for bedding and for pot culture.

Something quite new in the way of a perennial pea is Pauline Salter. The habit of the plant is like that of the commonly cultivated perennial pea, *Lathyrus latifolius*, but the flower is a clear sea-shell pink. It reproduces itself from seed. Will become a valuable addition to the shrubbery or cultivated as a single plant on the lawn.

The Golden Salvia is a plant with rich yellow foliage, and bearing brilliant scarlet flowers. It grows about eighteen inches high and is reproduced from seeds. It is quite remarkable in appearance.

A variety of scabiosa with double flowers bears the name of "The Pompadour." The flowers are large and of a variety of fine colors. It is a plant fine for the border and for cut flowers. Propagated by seeds.

Another desirable double sweet pea is announced under the name of Dorothy Vick. It bears large flowers with banners of a clear rose color, magenta wings and a white keel.

The Rambler roses are proving to be serviceable in many ways by different modes of training, and the illustrations herewith show the white Rambler covering a trellis and the crimson Rambler grown as a hedge. These varieties are destined to come into very general cultivation, and to be employed and trained in many forms.

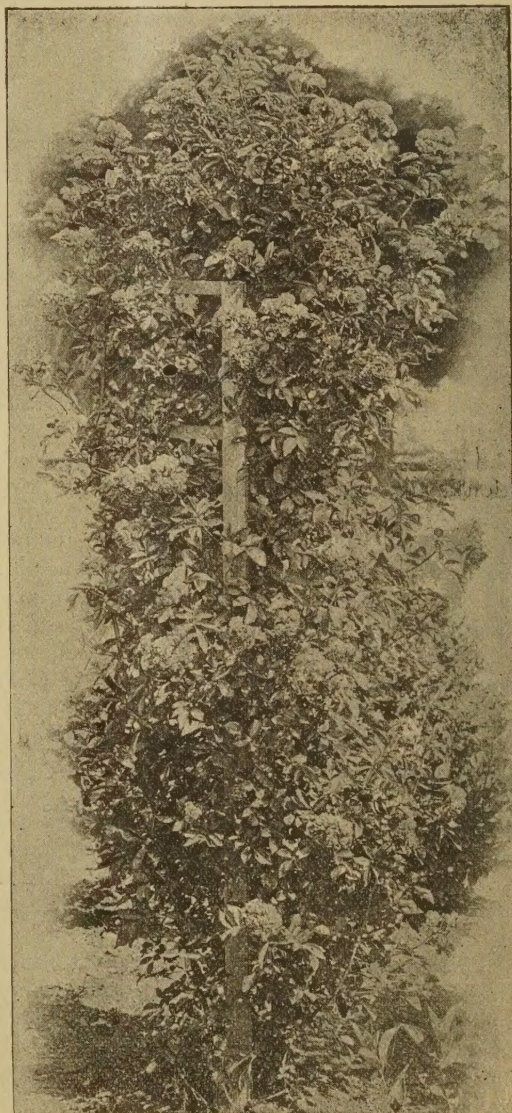
It is impossible even to name the new

cross between Yosemite and a cross from Ivory Pod Wax. A bush plant, early, pods long, solid, light yellow color and quite stringless. Very desirable for both early and late cropping.

Rogers' Lima Wax is a dwarf wax bean, bearing broad, flat pods in the greatest abundance. The foliage is very dense and it is necessary to plant thin, in order to secure sufficient air. A single plant will often produce fifty pods. The pods when picked retain for a long time their handsome appearance and their brittleness. The bean is white and of excellent flavor.

The Hero Lettuce is a valuable new sort; leaves with a reddish stain, large, handsomely fringed, crisp, tender and delicious quality. The head is large but borne very erect on a stiff stem, keeping it quite free from contact with the soil. Holds in condition a long time after maturing.

The Gradus Pea. This is in some respects undoubtedly the most remarkable gain in the line of vegetables offered in many years. To tell the story in a short way, it is a long podded variety of wrinkled pea of delicious quality; plant hardy, allowing it to be planted early, and producing its crop as early as the very early varieties of smooth peas known in the market as "Extra Early" and "Philadelphia Extra Early" and "First and Best," etc. The pods are more than twice the size of the "Extra Early," and contain from eight to ten peas in a pod. The Gradus will prove to be a great advantage



WHITE RAMBLER ON TRELLIS.

MORNING GLORIES OF JAPAN.

THE wonderful morning glories of Japan, and the Japanese ideas of raising the plants, form the subject of an interesting article by Eliza Ruhamah Scidmore in the December number of the *Century Magazine*. It appears that the cultivation of this plant is, in Japan, a "fad" or "craze" engaged in by both professional gardeners and amateurs.

The writer introduces the subject with the following paragraph:

As a floral sensation the Chrysanthemum may be said to have had its day; the carnation is going, going; and seekers after novelty among flower fanciers are sighing for a new flower to conquer. It is hardly known, even to foreign residents of Japan, that that land, which has given so much of art and beauty, has lately revived the culture of its most remarkable flower, the Asagao, our Morning Glory. For size, beauty, range of color, and illimitable variety there attained, this sunrise flower precedes all others, until its cultivation has become a craze which is likely to spread to other countries, and—who knows?—perhaps there introduce the current Japanese custom of five-o'clock-in-the-morning teas and garden-parties.

The writer has made a mistake in assuming that the Japanese Morning Glory is "our Morning Glory," as mentioned above; it is evidently a distinct species from our *Ipomœa purpurea* or *Convolvulus major*.

"The asagao," we are told, "was brought to Japan with the Buddhist religion, that particular cult of early rising. Scholars and priests who went over to study the new religion brought back the seeds of many Chinese plants."

* * * "When daimios and their idling *hatamoto* (banner-men) began to grow it, they soon worked wonders in rival *Yashiki* gardens at Jeddo. The asagao was expanded to two and three times its original size, took on rare tints, and began to border and band and stripe, and powder itself with contrasting colors. Each amateur was anxious to produce new varieties, and no flower less than three inches in diameter was considered worthy of praise by the seventeenth century flower fanciers." In the latter part of the eighteenth century the culture of the plant was nearly discontinued, and was not again revived until 1830. It then entered into the Japanese literature and paintings. "Plants and seeds were sold for great prices, the value of fourteen and eighteen dollars being given for even one seed."

"With the restoration and the social overturning that changed the daimios' whole existence, scattered and improv-

erished their military retainers, the cult of the asagao died away at the military capital." The traditions of the art were maintained by only a few priests and retired persons. It was again revived in the summer of the late war and "became the midsummer craze of both masses and classes."

Asagao clubs were formed in 1896 in Tokio, Yokohama, Osaka and Kioto,

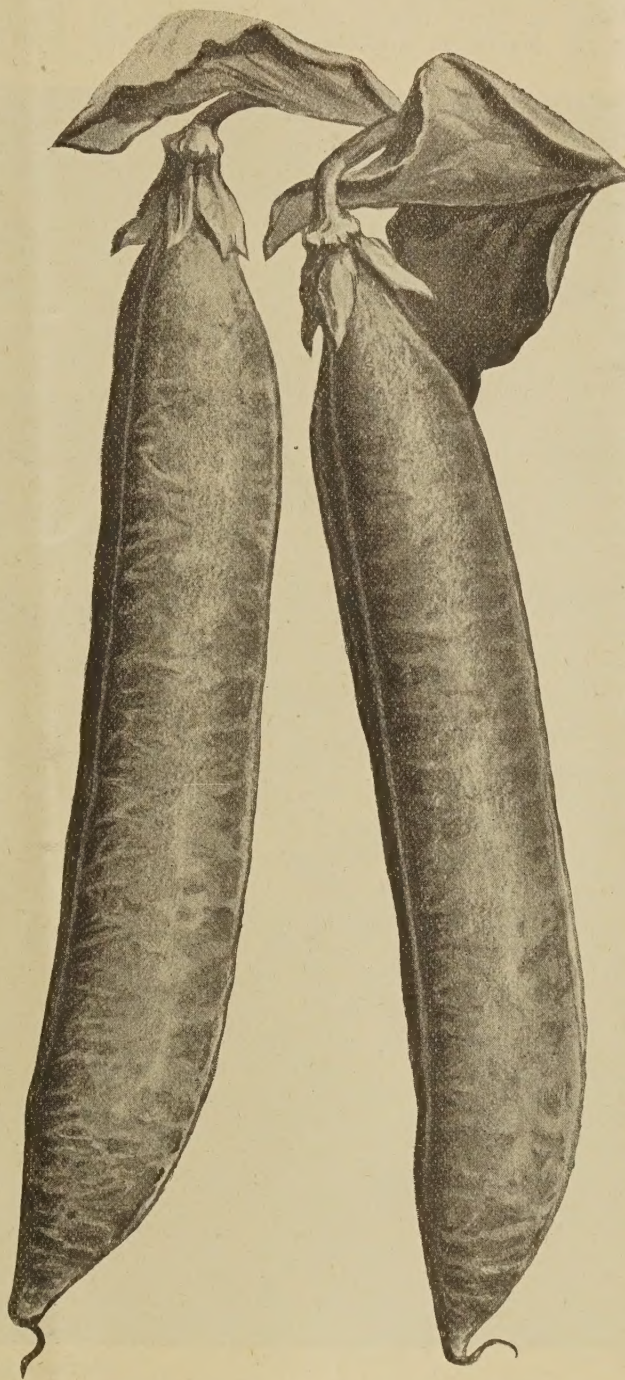
And there were the asagaos! Growing in pots, twining around and around four or five thin bamboos, the *owa mono* (great winged things) of flowers, opening chalice three, four, five and six inches in diameter, of every conceivable color. The great circle of flowers ranged from fairy iris and delicate orchid tints, through brilliant scarlet, carnation, and intense petunia shades, through purples, cornflower and cobalt blues, to the truly "midnight color." Such gray purples and red-purples; such soft dull shades of rose, terra cotta, brown and gray; such hints and tints of mauve, fawn and lavender, of violet, heliotrope, lilac and lemon; the soft grays of mist and fog and clouds, the gray of black pearls, and grays half iridescent, that shaded to the color of pigeons' wings and Australian opals!

The writer attempts to describe the variegations, which appear to be altogether too much for language to portray; and then gives some of the names that the different varieties bear, such as Frozen Moonlight, Fuji's Snows, Foam of the Sea, Dragon's Spume, White Cascade, Hoar Frost and Full Moon and Melting Snow, and many others. Thus it will be seen that the variation is endless. A considerable number of illustrations show some of the various forms of the flowers, and in all of these it appears that the greatest achievements, the most highly prized varieties, are those with the corolla more or less finely divided, cut up, and multiplied in parts. These flowers are not graceful in our eyes, and we do not think that, with our ideas of art, they would ever be looked upon with favor. For the most part they appear to be graceless monstrosities. We are told that the leaves also have been greatly modified, presenting a great variety of forms. All these changes have been brought about by endless cross-fertilizing and selection.

"Growing the asagao is such a lottery that the seeds might well be excluded from our mails. Only two or three out of sixteen, carefully gathered and labeled *owa* seeds, will surely produce the parent flower. One sows the 'Moon's Umbrella' and reaps the 'Pigeon Wing,' plants the 'Brocade Banner' and may find Li Hung Chang's yellow riding

jacket growing on that vine. Only fifty per cent. of *fukurin* seeds—sold at prices ranging from ten cents to one and two dollars for each seed—ever grow at all, and only five seeds out of one hundred may be expected to produce *fukurins*."

The writer was grossly misinformed or imposed upon to be led to believe in the truth of the following statement, evidently made in good faith:



GRADUS PEA.

"and the old daimios, their former *hatamoto* and their sons, and all the parvenus of war-made fortunes who wish to think that they inherited the asago seeds and traditions from at least *hatamoto* ancestors, devoted themselves to the cult." And, so we are told, that there are Morning Glory gardens in all these places and in others all through Japan. The writer describes a visit to one of the gardens:

"After eccentric flowers, leaves and stems, the wizards began their grafting; and the asagao grows from potato-vines, grape-vines, chrysanthemum stalks, and last from a rose bud, taking on the characteristics of each plant it forms a union with."

Of course this is utterly false, and without the least excuse of oriental imagery as might be claimed for it. In fact, it is a whopper.

Though there is no danger that in this country we shall get the Japanese Morning Glory fever in the Japanese style, yet

SEED PODS.

Out in the yard the climbing bitter-sweet bushes hold their berries as bright as ever. They are among the cheeriest seed pods the new year finds.

The *Physalis Franchetti*, offered in most catalogues of this year, is the same "Chinese lantern plant" that was advertised so widely last year.

Who has tried the morning glory as a window plant? Some seeds that we planted in a window box came up and

The edges of the leaves are serrate, and the variegation is rich cream and white upon a dark green ground.

There are some people who will not be convinced that it is possible to grow maiden-hair ferns in an ordinary dwelling. The other day I saw, in a furnace-heated, gas-lighted house as pretty a specimen of maiden-hair fern as any one could wish to see. "I grow it just like my other plants," the owner said, "with this exception": Then she lifted the pot from its pretty jardiniere, and I saw that the bottom of the jardiniere contained four or five inches of water, and that the pot rested on a stone placed in the center that held the bottom of the pot up just above the water.

A point that few amateurs seem to understand is that in order to have fine chrysanthemums the plants, or clumps, must be taken up and divided every spring, starting every plant for the next season's bloom from a single one of the new shoots that crowd thickly up from the root. It is easy to break these shoots out with a nice root to each one, and when potted they grow off rapidly. But if all the shoots of the old root are left to grow as they sprung up, the result will be a crowded mass of mildewed leaves and sickly shoots, with a few clusters of small flowers.

My friend, the cyclamen, has scored new honors. When I left my country home for a winter in the city there were a dozen or more fine plants of *Cyclamen giganteum* all full of buds that were well up above their leaves and almost ready to open. I had paid a high price for an extra choice strain of seed, and I wanted to see them blossom. So I took up



From a photograph.

FICUS PARCELLI.

it is true that this flower in its natural trumpet form has many attractions on account of its large size and great variety of markings, and it will be very generally introduced into our gardens.

* *

WHITEWASH THAT WILL NOT RUB OFF.

Slake one bushel of fresh lime with hot water. While slaking add one pound of glue previously dissolved in warm water, and stir thoroughly. Before applying add sufficient blueing to give the tint desired. This whitewash is good for both inside and outside work.

began to bloom when but a few inches high. The vines keep on blooming, but hardly climb at all. Is this the way the morning glory always behaves under window culture?

An odd and handsome plant of the *Ficus* family, easy to grow, but little known as yet, is *Ficus Parcellii*, well shown in the accompanying photograph. The leaves are not nearly so thick as those of *Ficus elastica* and *F. e. variegata*, nor is their surface smooth and wax-like.

one of the best ones and packed it in my trunk! I dared not have much soil on the roots, or even to moisten it, for the earth would shake out and spill on other articles. So I rolled it up in stiff brown paper, tied it up with a cord and packed it down tight. From Friday morning until late Saturday afternoon the plant was shut up in its close quarters. A week after it was planted, in not very rich earth, and in an almost sunless window, it opened one large, lovely flower, white,

with a crimson eye. Now there is another, and the little white buds keep crowding up as if eager to see what a city is like.

One of my city neighbors was relating to me her experiences with roses the other day. She has had her yard planted with roses by a florist several times, and is only just now getting a successful "stand" of them. "I found that it was not a good plan to cover them at all in winter," she said. "I was perhaps unskillful in adjusting the amount of the covering, or in taking it off at the proper time, but

like Etoile de Lyon, that had been killed under covering the winter before, coming through alive almost to the tips. I need not say that we shall not cover our roses for winter again." This is but one leaf of experience, and while such treatment may often prove successful with two-year-old bushes of the hardier teas, it is not to be depended on for weak, small plants. At the same time it is true that no covering at all is preferable to one improperly adjusted and taken off too soon.

L. GREENLEE.

The selaginellas are not difficult to grow, provided the soil is kept continually moist, and the sun is never allowed to shine full and hot upon them. Some of the metallic-tinted kinds will not color up well at all unless the shade given them is rather dense. Some of these have tints as blue as steel when the light falls upon them, and the fronds are like very delicately cut leaves growing upon a long stem that grows prostrate naturally, but can be trained with fine effect upon a low trellis. I have seen these long sprays



From a photograph.

SELAGINELLA EMILIANA.

I always found that my roses had been made tenderer by their winter covering, and the first bit of changeable weather that came in April or May was apt to kill the buds. Often we covered them so well (?) that the leaves packed about them caused them to decay. So we began to think that as it was a case of buying roses every year, anyhow, we would buy the two-year bushes and have plenty of them. When winter came we left them to their fate with no protection whatever. But in the spring they budded out and blossomed royally, even some of the teas,

SOME CREEPING COUSINS OF THE FERNS.

THE window gardener who is not successful in growing favorite varieties of ferns may solace himself in a large measure with Selaginellas. Some of them have leaves as fine as frost-work, and quite as dainty as an adiantum's. True, they do not grow up so tall as the ferns, but when dainty sprays of filmy green are wanted for small bouquets or baskets of flowers the selaginellas can lend a lovely, light and delicately tinted tracery of fronds.

of fronds pressed and used like those of the Hartford fern, than which they are much more beautiful. Among amateur gardeners this pretty selaginella, *S. arborea*, is most generally known as "metallic moss." The plant loves a rich loose soil of sand and leafmold, with a wide, shallow, well-drained pot, plenty of water and shade.

Selaginella Emiliana, shown in the engraving, is one of the very prettiest of the whole family. It is strong-growing, so that the fronds sometimes measure six or eight inches long. They are very light

and delicately cut, as the photograph will show, and grow very thickly over the top of the pot, forming a thick cushion of exquisitely shaded green—dark and velvety—near the top of the pot, shading up to a light golden-green near the tips of the fronds. The catalogues are beginning to offer this species now in quite an appreciative tone, so I conclude that there is somewhat of a demand for it, and that other home gardeners are finding out how lovely and how easy it is to grow.

We have a number of hardy native selaginellas that are beautiful for covering rocks, etc.

Some species that can be easily managed by those who have conservatories or greenhouses are *S. Africana*, an upright-growing variety with small branched leaves tinged with pink; *S. Brownii*, a lovely creeping sort, with leaves of very delicate lace-like texture; *S. gracilis*, whose densely matted slender stems soon form a close mat of green in mist-like fronds; and *S. articulosa* with bright green leaves about nine inches long.

S. Pitcheriana is an especially handsome species with crimson stems much divided near the top. Its growth is rather upright, so that the contrast between leaves and stems is very pretty.

I have no experience in growing these tender selaginellas, but have been coveting some of them for a long time and studying them carefully in the houses of growers, in order to understand their treatment when my success with more sturdy sorts should be assured. I think no one who gives the latter a fair trial can be disappointed. L. GREENLEE.

CONIFERALES—NO. 4.

CONCLUDED.

THE Taxineæ or yew tribe has been variously split up by botanists in attempting to form what might be considered a natural series. Some think "sub-tribes" express such an arrangement, others desire to express it by the term "distinct orders." In view of the great number of species, and perhaps whole creations of these plants which nature has filled out and buried deep down in the tertiary deposits, it would seem vain indeed to pretend that the remnant can be perfect. There are many missing links, no doubt, and the best and most simple thing that can be done is to gather the survivors together into groups of some affinity, each capable of illustration in gardening climates, and so well marked that a few clearly expressed and easily remembered characters will distinguish the tribes.

The most obvious distinction of the yews is their berries, and the most recent compilers so far recognize this that the berry-bearing gymnosperms are being brought into touch again. The Dutch school wish to place the conifers in touch with the lycopodiæ I believe, and it may be that they are often similar in aspect; but if any lycopods are truly exogenous, and structurally similar in other ways, would it be easier to move them to the conifers? It certainly would be in the garden! and it would often be easy to move a genus or a tribe, but the more important groups should be as fixed as the constellations, and with less and less of the naming and delineation which Herschel declared seemed purposely designed "to cause as

ian genus also of a single species. It is grown as a tender plant in English gardens, but is not apparently known to the sub-tropical parts of the United States.

Podocarpus is in forty or more species. Seventeen or eighteen forms are catalogued as growing at Kew, and all tender but *P. alpina* from Tasmania. The genus has a wide distribution in the West Indies, South America, South Africa and the tropical mountains northwards, the mountains of tropical Asia and Australasia, and in China and Japan. We have one or two forms from the latter countries in the middle Atlantic states, more planted than they deserve to be, for they are neither very hardy nor very thrifty. They have the aspect of Irish yews, and southwards may do better.

Dacrydium is in twelve species from Malaya, New Caledonia, Fiji, Tasmania, New Zealand and South Chili, and therefore all tender at the north. Three or four species are grown in Europe.

Phyllocladus is in three species from Borneo, Tasmania, and New Zealand. *P. rhomboidalis* is in European gardens, with leaves which suggest the ginko, but without lobes.

Ginko is the familiar "Maidenhair tree," in upright, pendulous, lacinate, and variegated forms. I had the pleasure of urging its adoption as an avenue tree to William Saunders, of the Agricultural Department at Washington, more than twenty years ago, and its use there has brought this unique tree into more notice. Saunders had some trouble to get his trees, but now they can be had cheaply from any good nurseryman. The nuts are eatable, but the fruits are astringent, particularly strong smelling, and disagreeable when handled.

Cephalotaxus is in several forms, but it is doubtful if there is more than one or two species. They are from North Eastern India, China and Japan. Such as I have seen planted in the north do better by far than *podocarpus*, and although they show no disposition to become trees, they are excellent shrubs, and are probably as well adapted for underwood as the yews themselves.

Torreya is in four species from Florida, California, Japan and China. They are useless at the north, but should be tried on southern mountains. I understand some dead and buried name has recently been exhumed for the genus by one of our indefatigable sylviculturists. I don't care to use it!

Taxus has perhaps six or eight specific



Apartment Plant.

CYPERUS ALTERNIFOLIUS GRACILIS.

much confusion and inconvenience as possible."

This has been the idea of these and similar papers, to bring those plants together which have some affinity in such numbers that readers may select a representation of the group—in any fertile part of the world.

Saxe-Gotha is a monotypic genus from South Chili and Patagonia. It forms a transition from conifers to yews, which Dr. Lindley described as having "the male flowers of a podocarp, the females of a dammar, the fruit of a juniper, the seed of a *dacrydium*, and the habit of a yew." If it is in Californian gardens I have not heard of it.

Microcachrys tetragona is a Tasman-

forms, and they are prone to vary greatly. Their range is all over the temperate parts of the northern hemisphere. Their center of development is the Himalayas, where examples of *T. baccata* may be found seventy or eighty feet high, and with immense trunks. In Britain it usually grows in woods on the hill sides from Aberdeen southwards, rarely making a trunk of more than twenty feet high, but often of great diameter and spread of branches. The very oldest trees in Britain are known to be yews, and they are often found in the churchyards, where they must have been planted. The yew, in fact, is largely identified with the history of the island, and its wood furnished the material for the famous long-bows of the Scotch and English archers.

Taxus baccata is hardy in some of its varieties as far north as Southern Connecticut, but it cannot be depended upon to develop really well north of Princeton, N. J., and even there it is the better for some shelter. There are several fine examples in the middle Delaware valley, but the best are under the north side of buildings or plantations. The same is true of the fastigate and variegated forms. Yews but rarely bear berries in the middle United States, although a few have been seen this year. One of the finest of these trees I ever saw in fruit was a seedling pendulous form planted by a relative of mine between eighty and ninety years ago, to help illustrate the Jussieuian classes. After the severe winter of 1860-61 it bore its first crop, and it was a marvel of beauty. Its main branches were horizontal like an arucaria, and pendant from them the laterals hung loaded with fruit like large beads of coral. It has always seemed sinful to me to cut down such plants to make way for houses. Fine gardens are safest anywhere away from growing towns. There are at least forty well marked varieties of *Taxus baccata* in cultivation.

Hardier than the foregoing is the Japanese yew, *T. cuspidata*, in two or three forms, and the prostrate Canadian yew and its variegated variety. These species are the only yews that can be relied

upon far north, say to the lower lakes. *Taxus baccata adpressa* has been credited to Japan by many authors, but some doubt has been thrown upon its genuineness as a Japanese plant. *T. globosa* is the Mexican yew. *T. brevifolia* is a Californian species, reaching to forty or fifty feet high, and *L. Florida* is the very local and scarce Florida yew. These species may be of use at southern points, or the Californian kind may do well north in the gardens of the Pacific coast, as it extends naturally as underwood to British Columbia.

Cycadeæ and Zamieæ. *Cycas* is in sixteen species found in the sufficiently moist tropical and sub-tropical regions of the

genera of the pinetum in the back ground.

Our friends in California and South Florida can undoubtedly grow many of them, and as their stems travel well, perhaps grow them at a profit for the trade.

JAMES MACPHERSON.

Trenton, N. J.

* *

AN EVERGREEN SCREEN.

If any person will visit my home on a raw wintry day, I will undertake to satisfy him very quickly that no investment can be made about a country home that will yield better returns for the outlay than the planting of an evergreen windbreak. On my place there is such an one that is now a rod high, which was planted eight years ago last spring. It is west and

northwest of my house in the direction of the prevailing winds. Why, it is almost like coming into a place to get warm, to step out of the wintry blast and get behind that screen. It seems like another climate, and where there is sunshine, this counts back of the trees, where on the other side it makes no impression. But it is in the greater comfort in the home and to the live stock in winter that I prize the screens most highly as a profitable investment. I think that the same fuel now goes nearly a third further in warming our home than it did before we had this protection, while in the stables and yards the live stock is more comfortable also, with a saving in fodder—another name for animal fuel. The screen is one-fourth of a mile in length with the trees, Norway spruce, four feet apart, the row taking 340 trees. As I set young stock it cost me at the rate of ten cents per tree, or \$34, not to count planting. I think the first cost is saved now



Apartment Plant.

KENTIA BELMOREANA.

world. *C. revoluta* is hardy at Savannah, Ga., and southward along the coast, also in Southern California. *C. circinalis* grows at about 3,000 feet altitude in South India. I have occasionally seen examples of this plant with stems twenty feet high and with two or three heads. It should be tried south of the Indian river region, Fla., and Santa Barbara, Cal.

The tribe Zamieæ has some eight genera and fifty species from Florida, Mexico, Cuba, and tropical America, and from the southern and tropical parts of Africa, as well as the tropical and sub-tropical parts of Australia.

They are curious and fine plants, and show up excellently with their con-

nearly every year, and this will continue for a life time. In planting, the trees were set in a double row four feet apart in each, the trees eight feet apart in each row, alternating them. For the first five years I kept the rows cultivated as I would potatoes. Besides the comfort imparted to living things, our garden now is more than a week earlier than formerly. Another advantage in the screen is its beauty; this is the talk of the neighborhood. A natural grove protects us from gales that come from the north and east.—J. L. Gray, Adams Co., Ill.

* *

APARTMENT PLANTS.—Two plants which make a fine appearance in a room are shown on this and the opposite page. The cyperus is satisfied if it can always be saturated with water, and in a good light. The palm is of the easiest culture.



ROCHESTER, N. Y., FEBRUARY, 1898.

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CHARLES W. SEELYE, Editor.

ELIAS A. LONG, Associate,

(formerly conductor of *Popular Gardening*).

Publishers are invited to use any articles contained in this number, if proper credit is given.

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All contributions, subscriptions and orders for advertising should be sent to VICK PUBLISHING CO., ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Interesting Reports.

Among late reports from Experiment Stations and the United States Department of Agriculture, the following will be found to be especially interesting to many of our readers. Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, at Ithaca, N. Y., has issued Bulletin 139, which is a third report upon Japanese plums, by L. H. Bailey. In this report, which contains excellent illustrations of several varieties, observations are made on some of the better known Japanese plums and descriptions given of new varieties. "Correspondents are asking," says Mr. Bailey, "what varieties of Japanese plums I recommend. In reply I will say that I never recommend varieties of any fruit for anyone to plant. * * * I can state what varieties I might plant for myself, but my selection might not be such as would please my neighbor. For myself I should still adhere to my list of four varieties of two years ago—Red June, Abundance, Burbank, Chabot. I should place as my second choice Douglas, Berckmans, Satsuma, Hale and Wickson, and should expect that the last two would rise, upon further acquaintance, to a place in the first rank." This bulletin and the two reports on the same subject previously issued from this station, embrace all the latest information in regard to the varieties of Japanese plums which have been tested in this country.

Bulletin No. 140, from Cornell, is entitled "Second Report on Potato Culture,"

by I. P. Roberts and L. A. Clinton. This is an exceedingly valuable report, which should be secured by all potato-growers and all farmers. The substantial value of the Bordeaux mixture in the prevention of blight is conclusively shown, and the method of its employment fully described.

Bulletin No. 129, of the Geneva Experiment Station, is a Report of Analysis of Commercial Fertilizers for the Spring of 1897. Purchasers of fertilizers should keep on hand this bulletin for reference and guidance.

The United States Department of Agriculture has issued Farmers' Bulletin No. 66, entitled "Meadows and Pastures: Formation and Cultivation in the Middle Eastern States," by Jared G. Smith. The best grasses and forage plants are described, and the conditions stated under which they flourish, the amount of seed per acre required. Also eight different formulas of grass seed mixture are given for hay and for pasturage.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 68 gives an account of the observations which have been made in reference to the Black Rot of the Cabbage, with suggestions for prevention. This report has been prepared by Dr. Erwin F. Smith, who made thorough examinations of the diseased plants in the fields in different States widely separated. Cabbage growers should avail themselves of the information here afforded.

Beekeepers will be interested in Farmers' Bulletin No. 59, entitled "Beekeeping," by Frank Benton, M. S. Evidently it is a carefully prepared, instructive and reliable report.

Besides those mentioned above the United States Department of Agriculture sends out Circular No. 15, from the Division of Botany, being observations on recent cases of mushroom poisoning in the District of Columbia. A very instructive pamphlet of twenty odd pages, with numerous fine illustrations showing edible and poisonous species of mushrooms, and indicating the points by which they may be distinguished.

The Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station has issued Bulletin No. 50, on "Rust and Leopard Spot, Two Dangerous Diseases of Asparagus." Both of these diseases are of recent appearance, and unless remedial measures can be discovered for them, they threaten to attack this crop wherever raised. The diseases are described and examples of diseased specimens illustrated.

In the line of "Nature Studies" for the public schools, the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station has issued Bulletin 86, being "The Story of the Lives of a Butterfly and a Moth," by F. M. Webster. It is short, complete, well illustrated and told in a way that will interest children and incite them to observe and watch, themselves, the life changes which such insects undergo.

Success With Rhododendrons.

An announcement of more than usual importance to gardeners and plant growers is made in a recent number of the *Florists' Review* by John C. Lewis, city forester and landscape gardener of Philadelphia, Pa. One of the city parks had a large bed of rhododendrons which had been planted some years, but the plants had never done well, barely holding their own, and occasionally producing a flower or two. This experience is well understood by all who have attempted to grow these plants in strong limestone soils, and without the addition and incorporation of peat thereto. The following is the new experience, as related by Mr. Lewis:

Last spring I purchased fifty small imported plants and resolved to try them in Jadoo fibre. These were planted as an edging to the others. The holes were dug and lined with Jadoo fibre, the plants placed, and the root balls covered with the fibre, using about a half peck to each plant. The soil was then filled in and firmed. They were then left to themselves. The experiment has proved successful. The new plants not only developed their flower buds, but have made from four to seven inches of strong growth, have formed quite a number of flower buds, and the foliage is of a rich and healthy color, and next spring I shall make an effort to treat the entire bed in the same way.

If Jadoo fibre will enable us to successfully raise rhododendrons they will be planted extensively where they have never yet succeeded.

* * *

Fruit Growing in this State.

The report of the New York Agricultural Society for the past year notices that the prices of fruit have been unsatisfactory to the growers and accounts for this condition of the market in part by the fact that large numbers of people have been out of employment, at least a part of the time, and therefore unable to purchase fruit in such quantities as formerly. Apples, it is thought, will continue to be profitable to raise by those orchardists who conduct their operations on business principles. Pears have brought low prices, but still it is thought there is profit in pear growing. Apricots in some parts of the states have given good results.

Vineyardists are disappointed and discouraged, and it is evident that grape-growing has reached its limit and can no longer be considered a profitable branch of fruit growing. It is probable that some vineyards will be destroyed, and the ground devoted to other uses.

Cherries appear to offer some inducements to planters.

The enormous crop of plums in this State last year came into market along with peaches and resulted in low prices for both.

Small fruits found low prices all the season, as the market was overcrowded at all times with most kinds of fruits excepting apples.

Letter Box.

In this department we shall be pleased to answer any questions relating to Flowers, Vegetables and Plants, or to publish the experiences of our readers. EDITOR.

Growing Cranberries.

Can you give me a few points on growing cranberries? C. J.

West Dover, Vt.

Cranberries are raised on low bottom lands that can at any time be flooded when desired, and be kept dry when necessary. The subject is too large a one to be treated in brief, and we advise C. J. to procure *Cranberry Culture*, by White, published by the Orange Judd Co., New York.

++

Plant for Bordering Cemetery Lot.

Is there such a bordering plant as "inch plant?" We want to obtain a pretty plant suitable for bordering lot in cemetery—one that will stand both heat and drouth. MRS. W. H. V.

Waco, Texas.

The name, "inch plant," is not a familiar one, though the writer thinks he has heard the name before, but cannot say to what plant it is applied. Correspondent does not say whether it is a low hedge that is wanted to border the cemetery lot, or only some low trailing plant. If it is a hedge that is wanted it can be formed of box, or *Myrtus communis*, or the Japan *Euonymus*. If a trailing plant, the periwinkle, *Vinca minor*, or *Vinca major* and its variegated forms will be found useful.

++

Aloe, Agave or Pandanus.

We have a plant that we would like to know what it is and how to take care of it, and what kind of soil to use.

I will describe the plant to you the best I can. I think it is something like a cactus. It is a low plant, and the leaves grow from twelve to fifteen inches long from the main stock. The leaves are an inch and a half wide a short distance from the main stock and then increase to three or four inches in width, and then taper to a point. It has a thorn on the end of leaf. The leaves are white on the outer edge with a green stripe up the middle, and have saw teeth. W. A. D.

Dicksonburg, Pa.

The plant may be *Aloe albocinata* or *striata*, or it may be the variegated American *Aloe*, or perhaps *Pandanus candelabrum variegatus*, or *Pandanus Veitchii*. These plants should be potted in light, rich soil having good drainage. They are easily wintered in the house, and in summer can be placed outside.

++

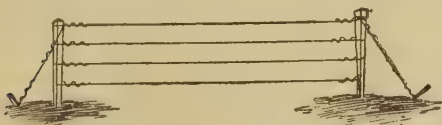
Trellis for Tomato Plants.

Please state in the Letter Box the best way to construct a trellis for tomato plants, so they may be trained to get the full benefit of the sun and ripen early. Say for sixty or seventy-five plants.

Toronto, Ont.

W. H. C.

A good trellis for tomato plants may be made with posts and wire. The posts



A WIRE TOMATO TRELLIS.

should be about six feet in length, and be driven into the ground twenty feet apart. Four wires, placed one above the other,

are sufficient. The first wire can be one foot from the ground, and all of them one foot apart from each other, making the upper wire four feet from the ground. Use No. 12 wire. The trellis can be whatever length may be convenient, and the end posts can be braced with wire running from the top of the post to a stake driven some feet distant from the bottom of each end post, and in a line with them.

++

Pruning Dahlias—Cemetery Plants.

1.—Can I cut back dahlias in the summer or trim off the foliage so the plant will not grow so large and not injure their chances for flowering?

2.—Will you give me a list of plants suitable for a cemetery, such as hardy shrubs, hardy plants, bedding plants and annuals? The place is a dry southern slope. Is there a variety of pansies that will grow there? S. P. T.

Haverhill, Mass.

1.—Dahlias cannot be cut back. They should be allowed to grow unmolested.

2.—Pansies would not do well in the place mentioned, nor can many annuals be advised for a "dry southern slope." *Portulaca* would be well suited. But it is better to rely on shrubs and hardy perennials. Of the former may be named *Spiræas*, especially *Van Houttei* and *Bumaldi*, *Berberis Thunbergii*, *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora* and *Viburnum plicatum*, and of herbaceous perennials, the *White Day Lily* and *Hemerocallis flava* and *H. aurantiaca major*, and *H. undulata media picta*, Chinese *pæonies*, the *Pearl Achillea*, and *Yucca filamentosa*, and *Vinca minor* and *Vinca major variegata*.

++

A Flowering Hedge.

I want some hardy plants to form a hedge or screen to shut off the kitchen garden from the lawn. It will require plants enough to fill a length of 200 to 400 feet. Plants are wanted that will flower from July 18th to October 15th. A. B.

Rochester, N. Y.

One of the best plants for this purpose is *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora*. The plants can be allowed to grow to such a height as desired, and then be trimmed back every spring. The new growth at the top will be about two feet in length and will be covered with bloom at the time named. If the hedge is pruned in the form of an inverted V, (thus Λ) the new growth and the bloom on it will cover the sides as well as the extreme top. The plants can be set in the hedge row about eighteen inches apart.

The *althea* planted in the same way would bloom in August, continuing into September, but the season of bloom would not be as long as that of the *hydrangea*.

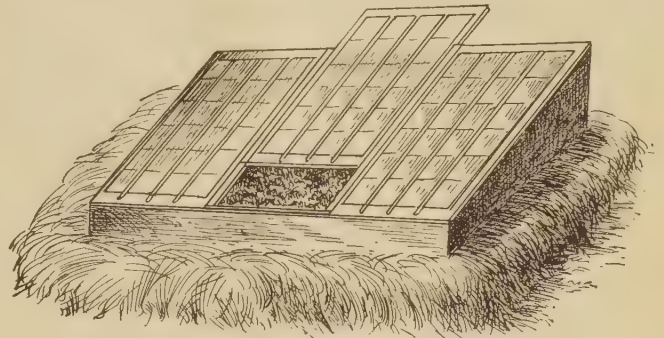
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Making a Hot-Bed—Green Tomato Worms.

How can one get rid of the green tomato worm? Also, what is the best way to make a hot-bed? Chicago, Ill. C. E. P.

The ordinary hot-bed consists of a pile of fermenting stable manure, covered

with a frame and glazed sashes, in which is a layer of fertile soil. The bed should be located where it will be easy of access, but it should be on dry ground and not where water could flow over the ground and about its base, even in wet weather. It should also be sheltered from heavy winds, and with a full exposure to the sun. In preparation for a bed the fresh manure and long litter is collected from stables and drawn together to the location of the bed, where it is placed in a conical pile. As the manure is thus thrown together it is packed down by treading on it, the treading being repeated as the bed is raised a few inches at a time, until the pile is finished off to a point at the top. After a few days it may



PLAN FOR HOTBED.

be noticed that the pile is heating by seeing steam rise from it. It is then customary to handle over the manure, shaking it out and again making it into a pile and tramping it down as before. In two or three days the signs of heating will again be evident, and it is then ready to be made into a bed. The bed should be made large enough to extend at least a foot outside of the frame at sides and ends. In throwing the manure into shape, as the pile rises in height every few inches, it should be beaten down with the back of the fork so that the material will be of uniform density. The bed should be two feet, or two and a half feet in depth; the deeper it is the steadier and longer continued will be the heat. When the bed is finished evenly on top the frame can be set on and covered with the sashes. In a few days a strong heat will rise, and when this abates somewhat, so that the thermometer thrust into the manure indicates only 85° or 90°, a layer of rich mellow soil that has been previously prepared should be placed in the frame and spread evenly over the bed, to a depth of about six inches. The bed is now ready for use, and seed sowing in it can commence. In the management of a hot-bed constant reference must be made to a shaded thermometer kept inside, and air must be given sufficiently to keep the temperature down to about 70°, and there should be mats provided for sheltering the bed on cold nights and in severe storms.

As to the green tomato worm, the custom is to inspect the plants frequently and remove the worms by hand, and destroy them. They are large, plainly to be seen, and never in great numbers.

THE HEART'S OWN INGLENOOK.

Who does not love of a winter's night,
To sit by the blazing fire,
And see, in the glowing embers bright,
Pictured his heart's desire?
For him, though the piercing winds may blow,
Are beauty, and warmth, and bloom;
And winter has lost its terrors, for lo!
It is summer within the room.

Summer! for roses and jasmines fling
Their perfumes upon the air,
And in the grace of their blossoming,
They bring a contentment rare.
With the curtains drawn, a mellow light
Lies softly within the room;
And it crowns a head with an aura bright,
And brings out a cheek's rose bloom.

And a little slipper-toe touches yours,
As it rests on the fender there,
While a smile on a lip response allures,
And whispers "Begone dull care."
So the ache in the heart soon slippeth away,
As the old world-worries flee,
And silence is sweet; though no word you say,
Life seems again good to thee.

For the flowers, the light, and the "winsome" one,
Have woven a wondrous spell,
To win the heart, as naught else has done,
To hold and to charm it well.
O, feet may wander, and heart may stray,
And illy earth's trials brook,
But sweetest pleasure is found alway,
In the heart's own inglenook.

—DART FAIRTHORNE.

VARIATIONS IN HOT-BED MAKING.

AN old-time writer has said, "Who loves a garden loves a greenhouse, too." Now, while everybody who owns a garden is not situated for possessing a greenhouse, yet the use of glass as an aid in garden-making, and especially in extending the season of growth at both ends, is within the reach of all gardeners. Wherein does the value of glass as a garden aid lie? The answer may be summed up in a few words. Glass permits these two essentials to plant growth, sunlight and heat, to pass through its substance, while it shuts out wind and cold. It likewise retains the moisture and heat that accumulates within its cover, and in this way adds other conditions congenial to plant growth.

Of all appliances for the use of glass in lengthening the season of growth, that of the hot-bed is by far the most common. From the small bed of a few sash suited to a common garden, to the large yards of hot-beds owned by market gardeners, it is safe to conclude that the number of hot-beds run up into hundreds of thousands in our land. The making of hot-beds as commonly done, is a matter so well understood as scarcely to require going into at this time. The object of this article is rather to call attention to certain variations from the usual form of hot-beds which are not so well known, but which are worthy the attention of all progressive gardeners.

First we will speak of a form of hot-bed which is somewhat in the nature of a greenhouse. It might be employed as a greenhouse the winter through, although the writer, who has had considerable experience in such a use of glass, has only

employed it as he has the ordinary hot-bed, from February or March, and later.

Figure 1 shows such a hot-bed of greenhouse form in cross-section. The width of the house is fourteen feet. The roof consists of six-foot hot-bed sash sup-



FIGURE 1.—CROSS-SECTION OF HOT-BED OF GREENHOUSE FORM.

ported by rafters, and a ridge part that consists of lapping boards which extend lengthwise with the house. The upper boards of this part, in alternate lengths on each side, are hinged to the ridge piece, thus affording means of ventilation without sliding the sash. Entrance is effected from the end through a shed as shown in figure 2.

The principle advantage of such a house is that the work of planting, watering, etc., can be done at times when it is too cold or stormy to open hot-beds as ordinarily made. There are some gains, also, in the matter of heat economy, as well as in that of being able to replenish any part with fresh manure in case this is desired for increased heat.

The construction of the beds needs little explanation. The writer's house built on this plan, runs north and south. First, an excavation two feet in depth, and the size of the house, was made, the soil being used in part for banking against the house for shelter, and to carry away moisture. The sides consist of two-inch scantling, boarded up on the inside and at the top on the outside. The sash supports, of two-inch stuff, at one end rest on the outer walls, while towards the other end they rest on two plates two and a half feet apart, which run lengthwise with the house. These plates are supported by iron gas pipes at intervals of eight feet, the lines of which also define the walk

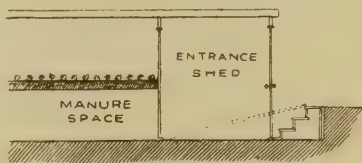


FIGURE 2.—LENGTHWISE SECTION OF FIGURE 1, SHOWING ENTRANCE SHED WITH INCLINE.

and the beds. The height of the house at the center is six and a half feet. The manure spaces are of the same extent as the beds proper and are about three feet deep. In the boarding up of the manure spaces at the walk, it is arranged to have the greater part of the board surface movable, being kept in place by the buttons which are attached to the stationary boards at the top and bottom.

The object of the movable portions is to permit of changing the manure, if de-

sired, while the house is in operation. In the writer's own practice, however, he has seldom filled in the manure from the side, as there are advantages in doing so from above, a thing allowable when the beds are first made up, and later in mild weather, provided the part to be filled is not occupied with growing plants. In filling from the top the sashes and the cover, consisting of loose boards over the manure space, are removed, which cover later supports the soil.

In charging the house with manure, the same care should be taken as in making ordinary hot-beds, first, in having a good quality of heating manure, and second, to pack it quite firmly, a thing not as easily done from the sides as from above.

Figure 3 shows the form of a home-made wheelbarrow used in connection



FIGURE 3.—HOME-MADE WHEELBARROW SUITED TO GREENHOUSE WALKS.

with such a greenhouse. It is but twenty inches in width, which permits of its use in the walk of the house, in moving soil, manure, pots, etc. By laying down some planks in the potting shed, as shown by the dotted lines in figure 2, the barrow can readily be used in carrying material in and out of doors.

An advantage in this kind of a hot-bed that has not been mentioned, is that of the saving of wear to the sashes and glass breakage. The sashes are seldom handled otherwise than by sliding up and down, as it is not necessary to remove them for watering, weeding and like operations. The handling of hot-bed sash is not only a fruitful cause of glass breakage, but the sash are thereby racked

Spring is Coming

Now is the Time to Purify Your Blood.

Take Hood's Sarsaparilla and Guard Against Danger.

During the winter, owing to diminished perspiration and other causes, the blood has become impoverished and impure. In the spring the millions purify, enrich and vitalize their blood with Hood's Sarsaparilla, the greatest and best Spring Medicine.

IT IS WONDERFUL

What a change can be made by a few bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla at this season. This medicine creates an appetite, tones and strengthens the digestive organs, gives sweet, refreshing sleep, quiets the nerves, and gives renewed energy and ambition, strength and vigor.

HOOD'S Sarsaparilla

Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier. \$1; six for \$5. C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

HOOD'S PILLS cure liver ills, easy to take, easy to operate. 25 cents.

more or less, with the effect of opening cracks between the glass and putty, thus making them less effective against cold.

Aside from the hot-bed above described, the present writer has had much experience with hot-beds of the ordinary form, a little later in the season than when the greenhouse is operated. One method employed in arranging his hot-bed yard has been so satisfactory that he heartily recommends it to others. The idea is shown in figure 4, annexed. It is in the direction of entirely saving the handling of sashes, except as they slide on the frame, with a saving both in glass breakage and injury from racking.

The way of effecting this is by having the hot-beds arranged in double line as *a* and *b* in the engraving, with a space (*c*) between them equal in width to a hot-bed. This space is designed to accommodate the sash when the bed is uncovered, and thus never moving them into the walks (*d d*). It is seen that the sash

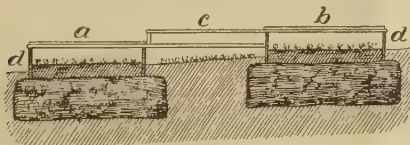


FIGURE 4.—ARRANGING HOT-BEDS ON AN IMPROVED PLAN.

supports are twice the usual length, that is, they reach across the space *c*, thus keeping the sashes as safely supported, and as free from racking when moved off the bed as when they are in place. The same space accommodates the sashes of both beds, as the slope permits the extended parts of the supports to be one well above the other, as the figure shows.

The space between the beds is not lost either, for here such things as late celery, cabbage and cauliflower are sown, as the sashes are entirely removed by the time the seedlings require the head space.

* *

A WARNING.

Mr. W. H. Jordan, director of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, at Geneva, N. Y., sends out a circular, warning farmers to beware of persons coming among them for the purpose of forming creamery companies. Unprincipled persons are engaged in promoting such enterprises with the intention of lining their own pockets with a large proportion of the money that is paid in the purchase of stock.

It is impossible to prophesy how long farmers with so many means of information at their command will allow themselves to be duped in this manner. If, when such propositions are made to them by parties of whom they have had no previous knowledge, they would appeal for information and aid to the Agricultural Department of Cornell University, to the State Experiment Station, to any reputable newspaper, or to leading dairymen in the state, they would save their money, and if they really wished to start a creamery enterprise, would be advised how to do this in the most efficient and economical manner.



Plan before planting.

Pot hyacinths now lead.

No plant thrives in a crowd.

Is your grape trellis painted?

An enlarged area may mean lessened profits.

Strange to say there are families on whose tables the toothsome parsnip is never seen.

The wise learn from experience of others; they take a good, reliable, gardening journal.

Many of the hardy shrubs propagate early from cuttings after the manner of grape vines.

The beautiful garden catalogues make life truly worth living. They are inexpensive educators.

Heavy winds sometime denude the strawberry beds of mulch in places. It should be made up to them.

If the seed is poor the crop will be poor, no matter how much of an outlay has been incurred for preparing the soil. Waste therefore goes with poor seed.

For a white-leaved, hardy shrub I place the variegated-leaved cornelian cherry at the head of the list, and I have tried all.—*Subscriber's letter.*

This journal recommends the plan of naming every country home. It costs nothing, and somehow one thinks better of a place that bears a pleasing yet dignified name.

Slips of geraniums, double petunias, verbenas, heliotrope and other bedding plants put into sand or earth for rooting in February, will under favorable conditions make fine bedding stock by May.

The Germans seem to know how to run a successful horticultural show. It is reported that the great exposition held at Hamburg, Germany, last year came out with a surplus of \$86,000 after paying expenses.

Had you thought of it, that your neighbor ought to be a subscriber to this MAGAZINE? He would be if the matter was mentioned. Why not mention it, and thus confer favors all around? Now at the dawn of another season is a fitting time for this.

Do you think of setting a new strawberry bed this spring? Then kindly take this hint which should be better known: Obtain plants from a young bed. To use runners from plants that have borne several crops is equivalent to establishing a very poor bed comparatively.

It is computed that the children of the district schools of Indiana planted 20,000 maple trees on October 29th last, that being autumn arbor day. Who can measure the blessing of this act by young hands in future generations. Plant trees and truly we plant blessings without limit.

Bulbous plants without exception are water lovers. Treat them as half-aquatic when in bloom, and you will not miss it. Not only will the blooms be finer for receiving plenty of water daily, but they will last much longer, than if a drying-out course of treatment is pursued. Do not forget that some liquid fertilizer or barn

manure is very helpful for promoting bloom in all bulbous plants. Nothing in this line is better than dry or other animal manure placed in water to give the latter color about like tea. Apply this to hyacinths and other bulbs twice a week, from the time they begin to bloom, and the flowers will be enough finer to reward you well for the trouble.

Peas may be had some weeks earlier than the outdoor crop by sowing them on inverted sods in a hot-bed in February. The sods may be cut into strips four inches wide, and in this way a hot-bed will start plants enough for a long drill, when the sods later on are transferred into the garden soil. For several weeks before planting-out the plants should be well hardened off.

Pansies in Ohio. I am convinced that no other manure suits pansies as well as that from an old hot-bed. The soil in my garden is a light loam, but with the use of an abundance of old manure, I raise the finest plants to be seen anywhere. No picture can do them justice, while as for taking premiums at our fair, it is quite a common thing. I sow the seed in March.—*M. R. E., Columbus, O.*

While the English ivy is not a flowering plant I would not trade a specimen I have growing in my window for almost the best flowering plant you could bring me. This plant is trained to a globe form two feet in diameter, the frame being a home-made affair of mine. Every part of the trellis is covered with foliage, thus giving me a perfect ball of green verdure. With an occasional washing of the leaves they shine beautifully, and altogether this object is one of the handsomest in my collection of thirty plants.—*Mrs. L. D. Herman, Ulster Co., N. Y.*

Early Cabbage and Cauliflower. For my first crop I start a hot-bed in which to sow the seed, by the middle of February. It must be a good hot-bed, that is the manure must be fresh, and I use it fully two and a half feet deep under the bed. In such a bed I sow the earlier varieties—the Early Wakefield in cabbage, and

All Kinds of Feet

look better and feel better
when dressed in VICI
KID. All kinds of shoes
look better and wear bet-
ter when dressed with

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ROBERT H. FOERDERER,
Philadelphia, Pa.

the Early Eufurt cauliflower, being my favorites for main crop. In three or four weeks after sowing, the young plants need resetting, which I do in other hot-beds. From this time on I give the beds careful attention as regards airing in order to have the plants well hardened off by the end of April or early May, when the planting out is done.—*Charles Gayler, Che-mung Co., N. Y.*

Tree Values. In a recent law suit in Niagara county, N. Y., where a row of shade trees in front of a country home was involved because of the encroachments of a trolley line, experts in the values testified that thirteen trees, mostly maples, were worth \$100 each, and nine trees were worth \$65 each, while a few others were appraised at \$125 each. These values were not successfully assailed by the opposition. The trees had been twenty-six years planted. It is gratifying to see such appreciation shown for street trees, by men who knew what they were talking about.

A tree-planting and protecting association would be a good thing to organize in your town. Such are in existence in many places now and only with good effect. The demand for them is more than it was before the present wire age—an age when those who string up telephone and other wire often need to be curbed in their onslaughts against trees. Such companies fear an association more than they do an individual. The same banding together of citizens may easily be planned to be a safeguard against unscrupulous tree agents, and against many other things unfavorable to a community.

Lesson from a Skip. I have obtained many useful hints from the columns of the MAGAZINE in the past, and if the following pertaining to my own experience will be of value to other readers, they are welcome to the same. Onions have been one of my regular crops. I had applied stable manure liberally to the onion patch for so many years, that last spring it did seem to me as though the crop would never notice a skip of one year's manuring. So the manure went to another crop. Result, about half a crop of onions with quality inferior. For want of \$75 worth of manure I lost \$350 on the crop.—*G. W. Welton, Erie Co., Pa.*

How do you prune your hardy flowering shrubs? Some persons take the shears and clip the bushes to a perfectly rounded or oval form, something as they would prune a hedge, and then call the job well done. Others have a great fancy for tree-like forms in shrubs, and they cut with a view to developing a trunk to support the leafy head. Neither of these ways are to be recommended, where the object is handsome shrubs and a profusion of bloom. In the case of the majority of shrubs, to clip them in winter to a rounded form is to cut away just so much of the flowering branches, for the bloom appears on the young wood of the previous year. To aim for the tree form of shrubs, in most cases results unsatisfactory, for the reason that it is unnatural, and the trunks are almost sure too weak for the head, hence they will become crooked and ungainly. After a long experience with this valuable class of decorative material, the writer is convinced that by all odds the best way to trim is after a manner to preserve the natural characteristics of the shrubs. To do this, all of the older and unthrifty wood may be thinned out at this season of the year, and the younger growth be headed back only a trifle. It is a good plan, then, im-

mediately after the blooming season of the majority of kinds, to cut back the flowering wood; this will lead to a fine crop of young shoots later for the next season's bloom. A general exception should be noted in the case of such shrubs as do not bloom on the previous year's shoots, but on those that grow the same season. Among such are hardy hydrangeas, altheas, coronillas, burning bush, late-flowering spiraeas, and roses. All such should be severely pruned early in the spring, cutting back not only the past season's shoots to two buds each, but also cutting away enough of the old growth to leave the bush quite compact at the beginning of the season's growth.

Pruning Grape Vines. The trouble with an unpruned vine is that it bears too much fruit, and this means poor quality. Let us take a thrifty Concord vine to illustrate this matter. At the end of the season such a vine, in good soil, kept well tilled, should have somewhere near to 300 fruit buds on the new growth of the past season. Now, a good Concord vine should bear about twenty pounds of first-class fruit each season; if it does this steadily year after year no more should be expected. To bear that amount of fruit, not more than fifty buds are required. But as we have seen our vine has about six times that number, hence many in excess of the need. Leave the vine untrimmed and the 300 buds will overbear and the yield will be very inferior. Prune to reduce the number of buds to fifty and a good crop of fruit may be expected. That is the simple proposition needed for guiding your pruning knife. Cut away, therefore, enough of the young canes to bring the buds down to the right number. A good rule with Concord is to remove all the canes but five, and cut these back to nine or ten buds each. The Delaware class should have even less. Prune and tie up so as to have a good distribution over the trellis. The pruning should not be deferred beyond this month if it can be helped. All things considered, fall is perhaps even a better time for grape pruning.

* *

THE NEW VOLUME OF ST. NICHOLAS.

St. Nicholas, conducted by Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge, enters upon the twenty-fifth year of its successful career as the leading magazine for boys and girls with its November issue. A remarkably varied and attractive list of features has been secured for the coming year, including contributions by several of the foremost writers of the day. There will be the usual number of articles of instruction and entertainment, short stories, poems and jingles, as well as hundreds of pictures by leading artists. The price of *St. Nicholas* is 25 cents a copy, or \$3.00 a year.

* *

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French, or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 820 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.



RUDBECKIA, "GOLDEN GLOW."

As a lover of the beautiful in the flowery kingdom I want to pay an humble tribute to a recent garden debutante, Rudbeckia "Golden Glow." In the spring of 1896 I set out three plants that were about twelve inches high. In the month of August they had grown to a height of six feet, had branched out beautifully and they were laden with their amber-like blooms for about a month. They survived last winter with slight protection, and this summer each plant grew into a magnificent bush, laden with exquisite fluffy yellow blooms that were ready to challenge the beauty and grace of the proudest chrysanthemum.

Its period of bloom lasts for more than a month, and when at its height it looks like a majestic bouquet of golden chrysanthemums. The flowers are so large, and in so great profusion, that there is scarcely any part of the plant visible except the slender willow-like leaves. The huge bouquets that are daily plucked from its wealth of bloom will last a week in a vase supplied with fresh water each day. I would advise all lovers of the beautiful to try a plant this spring. Mrs. W. W. D.

Burlington, Iowa.

++

THE ORANGE HAWKWEED, Or "Paint Brush," Hieracium Auranticum.

Not long ago an editorial in the MAGAZINE warned farmers against this plant as one of the worst of weeds. I think it depends very much on the character of the soil whether it becomes a pest or not. It is native to Scotland, and English flower-growers call it "Grim the Collier," because the black hairs on the pedicels make it look like a man black with coal dust. Twenty years ago I found a plant of it in bloom in one of my meadows, and I was so taken with its beauty that I set it at once into an herbaceous flower border, where I gave it cultivation for some years, and I thought a good deal of it. I gave a neighbor who wished to start a flower bed a root of it, among other things. Soon after the place was sold, and the new owner let the bed grass over. The hardy gladiolus grew right in the stiff sod ten years or so, and the paint brush this last year made a patch ten feet across, a mass of red visible for a long distance when in bloom. In my own yard it spread somewhat into the grass; some years there is only a little, then it increases and diminishes again. Of late I have mowed it with the grass and do not cultivate it any more, but have never tried to exterminate it. As a weed it is rather a mild affair here with me, so far. I sometimes dig it when found in the fields, but I am not much afraid of it. E. S. G.

Canaseraga, N. Y.

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MY LITTLE ORANGE TREE.

Is there anything more dear to an amateur window gardener than a neat, thrifty specimen of the Otaheite orange, especially when it is in full bloom, the blossoms emitting a perfume strangely akin to that of the trailing arbutus; and more especially when it bears its odd little oranges in various stages of color, from green to bright golden yellow? I am an amateur window-gardener, and I confess there is not a plant in my whole collection that I am fonder of and cultivate with more attention than I do my little orange tree.

It hailed from a reliable establishment about two years ago, and as it was quite a thrifty little specimen I set it in a painted quart tomato can, where it still remains and is getting along the best it can. The soil I planted it in was quite rich, being a compost of friable, earthy wood's dirt, and well decayed soil from the cow stable. I used a slightly greater amount of the latter than the former, and I think I mixed in a teaspoonful of some plant food I had on hand. The orange sulked for a few weeks, and then, as if to make amends, it began to grow a new leaf; then more followed. It waited six months before it bloomed, and then, strange to say, a greater per cent. of the blossoms fell off than remained on the plant. To me they were very pleasing, and I thought if they would only stay on the tree and not fall off before they were fairly opened, I would be willing never to see an orange on it. Let it be understood, that oranges, not flowers, had previously been my highest aspiration. However, there must be a cause for such behavior, so I proceeded to investigate, and came to the conclusion that I was keeping it too hot. Accordingly, "I took it down a

peg or two,"—down to the lowest shelf in my window garden, and there it ceased blooming altogether! But in a few months it blossomed again, and was quite satisfactory, inasmuch as the flowers remained on the plant, and out of nearly fifty blooms I was rewarded with two oranges!

Does the reader begin to think I am an amateur "in dead earnest?" Well, perhaps, but just let me tell you that my little plant is now a-growing and stretching its little branches like everything—to get good form you see—and that means lots and lots of orange blossoms and oranges on a strong, sturdy little plant that can afford to bear them. And I know that in the future I shall have an orange tree equal to any I ever read about; and so can any one, providing he has not forgotten the little couplet learned in childhood, and so applicable to flower growers in general: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

In conclusion: If you want a plant that will stand abuse, such as a hot, drying-up air, too much ice water, long accumulated dust and the like, and yet thrive, and give you an occasional blossom and an orange perhaps, why just get a little orange tree and you will have that plant.

Randolph, N. Y.

++

WILD FLOWERS.

Reading about everlasting flowers in the January number of VICK'S MAGAZINE, 1897, ("Spring and Summer in my Garden," page 36), reminded me that we have everlasting flowers growing wild that are generally unknown. They are not showy when in bloom among larger and brighter flowers, but if gathered when the first flowers begin to open, dried in the shade and in winter mixed with our many pretty grasses, they make very acceptable winter bouquets.

The grass should be cut when in bloom or just after blooming, tied in bunches and dried in the shade, the same as the flowers. I find some coarse grasses growing in the swamps. Here, too, I find tall fern, *Asplenium Filix-mas*, I think, which is a welcome addition to my collection of flowers for winter.

Of flowers that are true everlastings (that is, composite flowers with involucre of many ranks, dry and white or colored, not green) we have several. Most of them, I think, belong to the genus *Antennaria*. I have only one named species in my collection; it is *Antennaria dioica*. I find it almost anywhere on the prairie, or in the open woods. It is white, pale-pink and bright rosy-pink in color; the flowers are very small, but they are clustered together so as to be quite showy.

Two white everlastings are probably *Anaphalis*, but am not certain as to name of species or varieties. One of these, the prettiest one, grows among the willows along the margin of swamps and is rather rare. The other is very common and does not object to a place in the field or garden, but is not a troublesome weed.

Some flowers will retain their color and shape when dried, but will not bear much handling. One of these is a pretty little plant, *Polygonum polygaloides*, having floral bracts or leaves edged with white or purple, or sometimes a pinkish color. The leaves retain their color nicely.

Several species of *Eriogonum* may be used dry. *E. niveum*, the snow-white *Eriogonum*, is perhaps best.

As I have said, the flowers will not bear much handling, but where decorations are only wanted for a few hours or days at most, they may be used to good advantage. I must mention our pretty yellow lichen, too, for I think no Christmas decoration complete without it.

Cheney, Wash.

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VICK'S NEW BRANCHING ASTER.

During our late cold, wet spring I transplanted into the garden bed sixty-five Branching aster plants, raised from seed sowed April 10th in a window-box, indoor. More than once I felt thoroughly discouraged, for after seizing the only opportunity the busy day afforded for gardening, the sudden drenching showers drove me in so often, asters and all, that I feared a failure. But I got them out after awhile and was rewarded with such a bed of beautiful flowers all through the fine, sunny autumn, so mild and lovely and free from frost that it seemed like a second summer. I do not want to be garrulous, but this beautiful aster is deserving of all the praise we can give it. One particularly fine white one, which I potted, had twelve large blossoms, wonderfully pure and lovely, and as many more buds. Besides all the pleasure they gave us out-doors, now, that the frosty nights have come, we have two large window-boxes filled with the lovely blossoming plants in the house.

One box has fifty fine flowers, besides buds, and makes one of our dining-room windows so gay. The colors are white, a bluish pink, dark crimson, rose-striped, light crimson and purple. The other box we have loaned for a few days for church decoration; it is even finer than the one at home and is much admired. They are very much like chrysanthemums. Such free bloomers, besides being so free from insects and blighting disease, are well worth all the care of raising. One lady remarked, while ordering a bouquet of these beauties, given to an invalid friend, "Oh, I must try some of Vick's seeds another year, for I never saw such lovely asters before." Some people like to imagine dear little faces in pansy blossoms, and the pansy is, indeed, a charming flower; but my asters whispered something to me many, many times, as I watched them steadily growing into that perfect beauty that comes in its own good time: outgrowing the spring-time struggles and the threatened failure; whether nodding and bending in the sweet night wind, sipping the morning dew and sunshine, or quivering under the storm-blast, this message they always whispered to me, until I am sure I can never forget it: "Never be discouraged, for we know what joys are waiting for us, just a little farther on, if we only have courage to keep filling each passing moment with our best effort." I love these sturdy, bright flowers so much that I want all my flower-growing friends to try them. One paper of mixed seed, price fifteen cents, and a part of those were given to a friend, started this bed of lovely flowers, of which I have tried to tell you something of the pleasure they brought to our home and friends.

Cutler, Me.

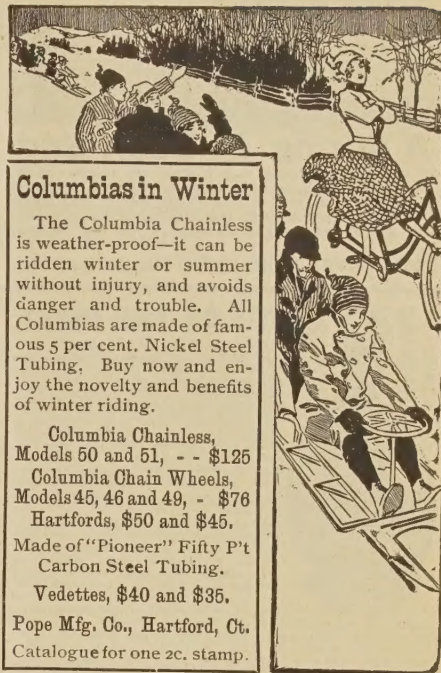
A BIRD IMPORTATION.

Oregon horticulturists, through the commissioner of the Board of Horticulture of that State, have made arrangements for the importation from Germany of a stock of one of the native birds of that country, called the kohlmeise. This bird is said to keep down the increase of the codlin moth in Germany, and this is the reason for its introduction into this country. It is said to be very prolific, producing two or three broods in a year with ten or twelve birds in a brood. It is not migratory and is strictly insectivorous. It is a near relative of our chickadee or titmouse *Parus atricapillus*. The kohlmeise is *Parus major*. It is about the same size as the chickadee and is extremely active. The head is black with white cheeks. Breast is yellow with white stripe in front; back olive green; wings grayish.

The *Pacific Rural Press*, in making announcement of this subject, says: While the primary object of importing the kohlmeise will be to secure a vigilant foe of the larvæ of the codlin moth, yet they will probably prove of great value in destroying other insects. It is reported to feed on certain scale insects in Germany, and Commissioner Dosch hopes that it will acquire a taste for the San Jose scale.

SOLANUM SEAFORTHIANUM.

This plant, which was taken to Europe in 1884 from the Antillies, has been but little disseminated as yet, as it has been thought that it would succeed only in the greenhouse. But the *Revue Horticole*, which issued in September a handsome colored plate of a branch of it in bloom, states that it does well in summer in the open ground, and makes a fine appearance when grown by itself or associated with *Solanum jasminoides*.



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People are beginning to learn that CATARRH is a local disease, caused by repeated colds in the head, causing enlargement of the soft bones of the nose, thickening and ulceration of the lining membrane with its constant discharge of unhealthy mucus and pus; that every breath is tainted before the air reaches the lungs; that it is the cause of the constant hawking, expectorating, nose-bleeding, headaches, partial loss of hearing, noises in the head, deafness, impaired vision, lassitude, debility, loss of rest and impaired appetite, and bad breath; that it is the principal cause of bronchitis, pneumonia and consumption of the lungs; THAT IT CAN ONLY BE CURED BY LOCAL TREATMENT; that the AMERICAN CATARRH CURE is the only remedy known that can cure the disease; that it is not a patent medicine, but the private prescription of a physician, who devoted twenty-six years to the study and treatment of the disease, and who thought the time had come when the public should have the benefit of his experience.

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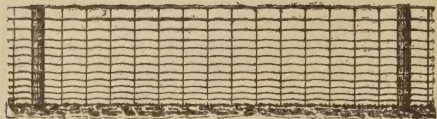
A. B. Colvin, State Treasurer of New York and a resident of Glens Falls, says: "The history of the Bemis Sanitarium and its advance by marvelous strides is due to Edward H. Bemis, Eye Specialist, whose marvelous success makes his name familiar to thousands all over the United States and in many foreign lands, and God speed him."

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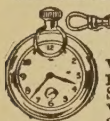
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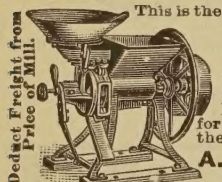
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James Jensen, superintendent of Humbolt Park, Chicago, says: "It is the best label out." C. L. Watrous, of Des Moines, Iowa, president of the American Pomological Society, says: "It seems to me that you have found a better device than anything I have ever seen before."

They are now in use in the conservatories of the Executive Mansion at Washington, and are endorsed by James Vicks Sons, Peter Henderson & Co., John Lewis Childs, W. Atlee Burpee, Pitcher & Manda, and other leading florists and nurserymen of the country. Send for sample to the patentee, W. W. DODGE, Burlington, Iowa. (When ordering mention Vicks Magazine.)

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THE AFTER TIME.

O, let us be glad that only the earth
Beneath us lies frozen and cold;
That still the days find beautiful birth,
Through orient gates of gold;
That still above us the fathomless blue,
O'erarches in dazzling light;
That still the stars shine tender and true,
Through the infinite depths of night.

O, let us be glad that only the snow
Lies white as a winding-sheet;
That the heart of the earth has warmth and glow,
And strongly her life-pulses beat;
That soon shall her fires awaken and set
Each nerve of nature a-thrill,
And brimming with beauty the earth shall forget
That long she lay silent and chill.

—DART FAIRTHORNE.

* *

MARGUERITE CARNATIONS.

Since the introduction of Marguerite carnations it is possible to sow seed, raise good plants, and obtain useful sweet-scented flowers for cutting in autumn. A period of seven months' cultivation suffices to obtain the first results. It is true the plants are not so floriferous the first year as the second, but this is simply owing to their being less in size. However, the blooms, if good, whether produced in quantity or not, prove very welcome, either as buttonhole flowers or for adding to a miscellaneous collection. An additional advantage gained in their flowering the first season is that of ascertaining the quality of the blooms. Few if any strains of seed furnish plants having all double and no single-flowered plants. The latter, therefore, being discovered when the seedlings bloom may promptly be discarded and the best retained.

A packet of seeds of a good strain, either of mixed colors or all white, may be sown at the end of February or early in March. White varieties are usually kept separate, so if white Marguerites are in demand include a special sowing, which may be cultivated separately.

Employ well drained pots or pans and a light open compost. The seed will germinate in a temperature of 55°. Keep the seedlings, from their first appearance, near the light, so as to avoid their becoming drawn, watering lightly but sufficiently. As soon as the young seedlings attain strength, and soon would be crowded, it will be best to separate them, pricking them out two inches apart in boxes drained and filled with a similar compost. They may remain there for some time, say until the end of May, when they can be finally planted. Light is very essential to their steady progress, and a cooler position with a moderate amount of air given, but freely on favorable occasions, favors development while in the boxes. The waterings must be applied lightly during the first few weeks, so that the plants can easily form rootlets, which they will do more freely in a healthfully moist medium rather than a wet one. No place is more suitable than a cold frame. The lights may be removed and the plants fully exposed prior to planting.

Though the carnation prefers a fairly moist and rich soil, yet it will succeed in a somewhat dry position, such as a sloping bank, when once the roots have taken deep hold. The plants winter well in a position of that kind, not

being subject to damp. A flat and open position, well drained in winter, must be considered the best position, because there is adequate provision for their demands with regard to moisture and food in the soil at a period when both are required to well support the advancing flower stems.

Encourage the first blooms to be produced as early as possible so that the quality may be noted. The double flowering varieties only are worth cultivating, and as these plants are quite as free in the production of blooms as inferior varieties, it is simply waste of space to retain the latter. The flowers open successively and last a fair time in good condition. Seed sown at the period indicated produce plants which will, with fairly good culture, commence to bloom in August, and continue until late in autumn.

Plants well furnished with buds are frequently found serviceable in winter if carefully lifted and potted. In a genial greenhouse temperature, with the plants close to the light on a shelf, many useful blooms may be cut in winter or early spring. Replanted outdoors again in the spring they would bloom freely at the usual time, supporting the growth as required with adequate supplies of water. Where it is found difficult to winter Marguerite carnations outdoors some seedlings should be grown on in pots or planted in a frame where the needful protection from frost and damp can be readily afforded.

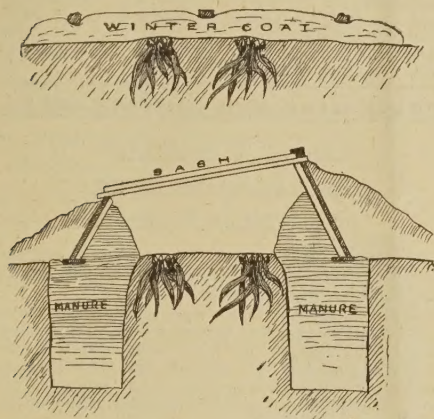
The practice of layering, in the same manner as choice carnations are treated, is really not necessary owing to their reproduction from seed being so quickly effected. This renders it quite easy to maintain the stock of plants. When one batch of plants commences to decay in vigor another may readily take its place.—E. D. S., in *Journal of Horticulture*.

* *

EARLY RHUBARB.

You were so kind as to publish my earlier article in the MAGAZINE, that I thought to try again. This time I will tell you my plan for obtaining rhubarb for the table from four to six weeks earlier than the outdoor crop. The plan is very simple, and the best one I think I have ever heard of. For this purpose I like to have a double line of rhubarb, the rows three and a half feet apart. For the forcing I use a length of bed that will come into a four-sash frame. The first step is to protect this much of the bed with a coat of six inches of strawy manure applied in December, or just about the time that digging and plowing must cease. One winter I did not find it necessary to cover before the first week in January. The object of the covering is to prevent the ground around the roots from freezing severely. If the winter coat is light I lay several rails on top to keep the wind from disturbing it. In February the forcing is begun. First the covering is renewed, and two trenches about two feet wide and three deep are dug just outside of the rhubarb rows. These trenches are then filled with fresh horse manure that has been saved in a dry place for the purpose. As the manure is forked into place it is slightly packed with the feet. I should have added that the trenches are widened inward somewhat between the crowns of the plants so that they will take nearly a third more of manure than would straight

trenches. The frame for this purpose is a peculiar shape, the sides being flaring. The object of this is, that as the heat from the manure trenches rises it will be kept within the frame. The ends are perpendicular. The frame in place is allowed to rest on narrow boards that lie on top of the manure about even with the ground. After this much has been done, more manure is packed into the frame to come underneath the flaring sides. The bed is further protected by being banked up on the outside with manure or with the soil thrown out of the trenches, and then on top with ordinary hotbed sash. My rhubarb bed runs east and west, so that the slope of the sash is planned to be towards the south. The bed



HOW OUR SUBSCRIBER FORCES RHUBARB.
Showing the winter coat and the spring hotbed.

requires hardly any care beyond airing in sunny days, by opening the sash somewhat, and by giving an occasional watering. We cut from this bed until the outdoor crop comes in. A little later the frame is taken down, the trenches are emptied of manure and soil is put in its place. The next season another part of the bed is forced, as I think it best to have one season of common culture between.

CHARLES GAYLORD.

Dauphin Co., Pa.

THE ANTHERICUMS.

THE Anthericums form a very interesting group of herbaceous perennials, many of which rank among the choicest border plants, soon forming large clumps of linear or broadish, grassy leaves, from which the pure white, lily-like flowers are produced in long, dense spikes, from one to two feet in length, in great profusion during the months of June and July. The individual flowers are pure white, with a green dot on each segment, and are very sweet scented. They also possess good lasting qualities and are fine for cutting.

Anthericums should be given an open, sunny situation; as soon as the ground becomes frozen in December, let the plants be given a top dressing of well decayed manure, the coarser portion of which should be carefully removed as early as possible in the ensuing spring. Good specimens of the plants can be procured of most dealers in hardy herbaceous plants, and the supply can be readily increased by a careful division of the older plants, and this operation should be per-

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formed early in the spring so as to enable the plants to become well rooted before hot weather sets in. The plants are free from all insect pests, and, as they are of rapid growth, will soon produce magnificent flower effects in the early summer months.

A. LILIAGO is popularly known as "St. Bernard's Lily." It is a native of Southern Europe and grows about eighteen inches in height. The grass-like foliage forms neat clumps, and the pure white flowers, which resemble small lilies, are borne in showy spikes.

A. LILIASTRUM is well known as "St. Bruno's Lily." It is a native of Baden, Germany, and grows about eighteen inches in height, and produces, during June and July, dense spikes of handsome white flowers.

A. LILIASTRUM MAJOR or the "Giant St. Bruno's Lily," is a gigantic form of the above with much larger flowers which are produced on stems from two to three feet in height. It is one of the finest of hardy flowers and quite indispensable to all collections.

CHARLES E. PARNELL.

Floral Park, N. Y.

PEGGING DOWN PLANTS.

AN admirable way to grow most any of the hybrid perpetual roses, is by pegging them down in the garden. Plants grown in this way furnish many more flowers than when raised in the regular way. The young shoots of each season's growth are pegged down in the fall, by the use of small sticks placed often enough to keep the branches fastened solid. In laying the branches down, leave none nearer together than eight or ten inches; after a bush has been pegged down for several years, the space will become crowded and then the old wood can be cut away to give room for the new branches. The new shoots should never be pegged down when in a growing condition, but when the wood has ripened off and become dormant in the fall is the proper time to do the work.

Should it happen, as it sometimes does, that some of the old wood must be left, because too few new shoots have grown to take its place, the old wood should be pruned back to two eyes or buds on each branch, the shoots will then start out in spring making new wood for blossoming.

The reason for this pegging down pro-

cess is this: The rose bush has a latent bud at every joint of the plant, which is only waiting for a good chance to grow and produce blossoms; planted in the ordinary way, only those at the top of the bush have much of a chance to develop, but when laid down everyone of the latent buds will stand an equal chance with every other in the distribution of the sap, moisture and sunshine, and few of them will fail to grow and bloom. A bed of roses grown in this way presents a grand appearance, as the surface of the soil is nearly hidden by the foliage, above which the lovely roses are growing thickly. These bushes need enriching often, as they are being forced so hard, and a good dressing of well rotted stable manure is almost a necessity every fall. Some of the shoots that become covered with earth will root, especially if the branch becomes partially broken or hurt in layering. Nature in her effort to heal the place will callous it over, and then roots are quite likely to form.

Geraniums are often fastened down in the same way, though in this climate they cannot remain over winter like the roses. Geraniums that have grown tall and especially during the winter, are the best ones to use for this purpose. When setting it out in the bed, place the root in such a position that the top will lie almost flat on the ground. Then fasten it down with sticks between the joints and new shoots will start out at once from every joint; these branches grow up perfectly straight and will soon come into blossom, making a straight row of small plants all of about the same size. They can be utilized for other beds if desired, as, if the joints are covered with soil, they will all root in a very short time and the old stem can be cut between each young plant. Usually, however, they are allowed to grow all summer where they are planted.

A great many other plants can doubtless be grown in this way with benefit, and in the spring I mean to experiment further and find what others are suited for this work. Perhaps heliotrope, double petunia and Marguerite daisy may be as easily managed as those already tried, at any rate, the only way to find out the best ones is to experiment.

Z.

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CONTENTS.

Apartment Plants	55
Anthericums, The	63
Buds and Fruit	59
Bird Importation, A	61
Coniferales, No. 4	54
Evergreen Screen, An	60
Family Cozy-corner, The	56
Fruit Growing in this State	58
Hot-bed Making, Variations in	55
Letter Box	57
Growing Cranberries; Plant for Bordering Cemetery Lot; Aloe, Agave or Pandanus; Trellis for Tomato Plants; Pruning Dahlias—Cemetery Plants; A Flowering Hedge; Making a Hot-Bed—Green Tomato Worms.	
Morning Glories of Japan	51
Marguerite Carnations	62
New Plants, Prominent	49
Plants, Pegging Down	63
Poetry—The Heart's Own Inglenook	68
The After-time	62
Reports, Interesting	56
Rhododendrons, Success with	56
Rhubarb, Early	62
Seed Pods	52
Some Creeping Cousins of the Ferns	53
Solanum Seaforthianum	61
Warning, A	59
Whitewash that will not rub off	52

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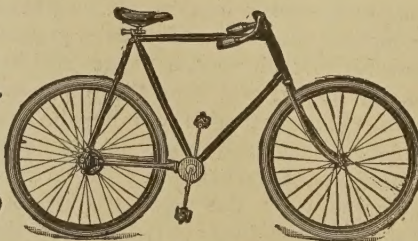
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